

The Rapture and Evangelism



Edward Dennett

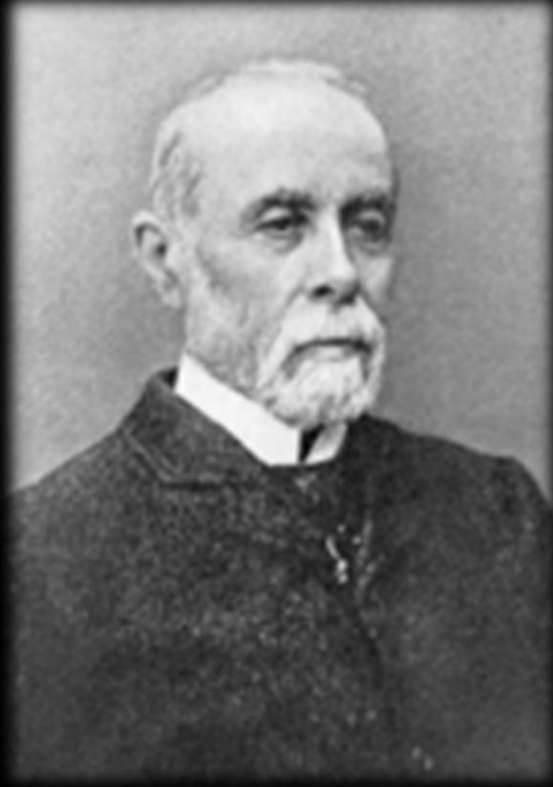
The Blessed Hope (1879)



“As it is becoming every day more manifest that we are in the midst of perilous times, it behoves the Lord’s people to be increasingly occupied with the expectation of His return. It is now nearly fifty years since the cry was raised, ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him.’ (Matt. xxv. 6.)



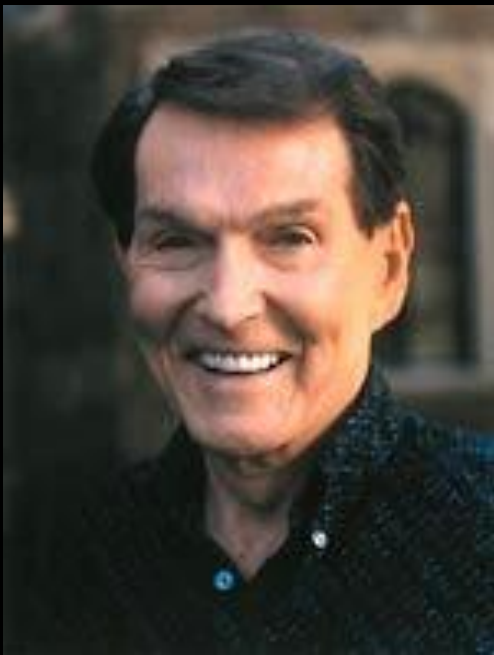
Up till that time the Church had fallen into profound slumber, drugged by the opiate influences of the world, so that the doctrine of the Lord's return for His saints was forgotten, ignored, or denied. But when, through the action of the Spirit of God, this cry went forth, thousands were startled from their sleep, and, trimming their lamps, went forth once again to meet the Bridegroom.



For a season they lived in the daily hope of His return; and so mightily did this hope act upon their hearts and lives that it detached them from everything – every association, habit, and practice – unsuitable to Him for whom they waited, and kept them with their loins girt, and their lights burning, as those who were waiting for their Lord. (Luke xii. 35,36.)



But time went on; and while the doctrine of the Second Advent has been apprehended and taught by increasing numbers ... it is yet a question if large numbers of the saints of God have not lost its freshness and power ... If this be so ... the time has come when the truth on this subject needs to be pressed home again upon the hearts and consciences of believers.”



“Historically, belief in the any-moment-coming of Christ ... produces an evangelistic church of soul-winning Christians, for when we believe Christ could appear at any moment, we seek to share Him with our friends lest they be left behind at His coming.”

WILL YOU ESCAPE
THE TRIBULATION?

RAPTURE

[Under Attack]



TIM LAHAYE

Coauthor of the #1 National Best Seller LEFT BEHIND

A Great Cloud of Witnesses



Bishops and Puritans



William Tyndale

(c.1494–1536)

“Another thing is this, all the Scripture maketh mention of the resurrection and comming againe of Christ ... and we are comaunded to looke every houre for that day.”

‘An Exposition upon the First Epistle of St. John,’ in *The Whole Workes of W. Tyndall, John Frith, and Doct. Barnes...* (London: 1573)



Bishop Hugh Latimer

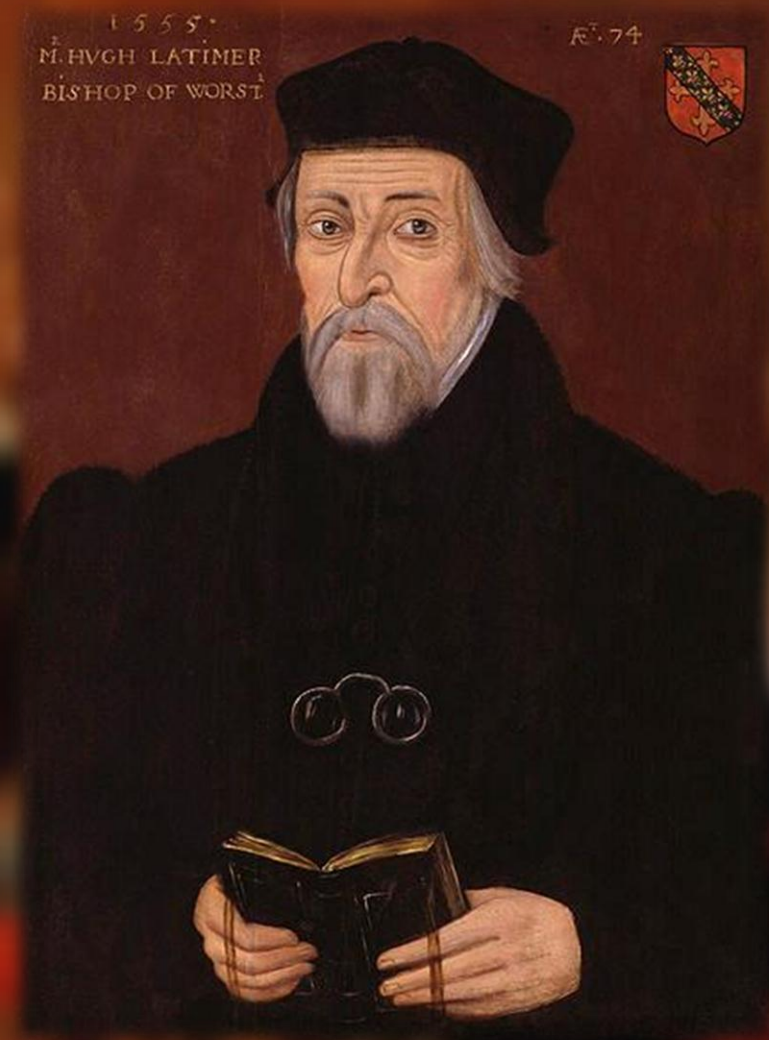
(c.1487–1555)

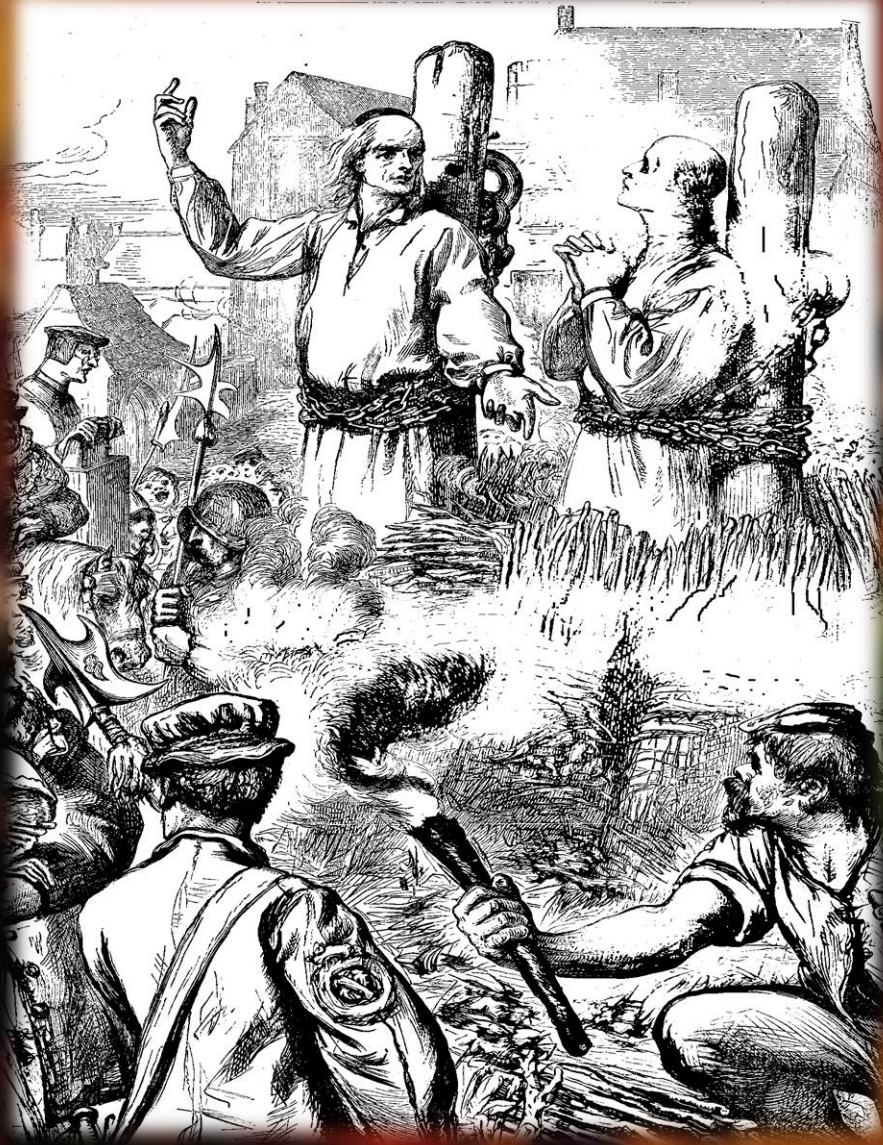
“St. Paul to the Thessalonians, when he speaketh of the resurrection of the good, saith, ‘That at the same day the trumpet shall blow, and all shall rise which died since the world began ; then they that shall be found alive upon the earth shall be changed suddenly, and shall be rapt up into the air, and so meet Christ our Saviour.’”



“I would have you to note well the manner of speaking which St. Paul useth; he speaketh like as if the last day should have been come in his time. Now, when St. Paul thought that this day should have been come in his time, how much more shall we think that it shall be in our time! For no doubt he will come, and it is not long thereunto”

Sermon, ‘On the Gospel for the Second Sunday in Advent (Luke 21:25-28),’ 1552



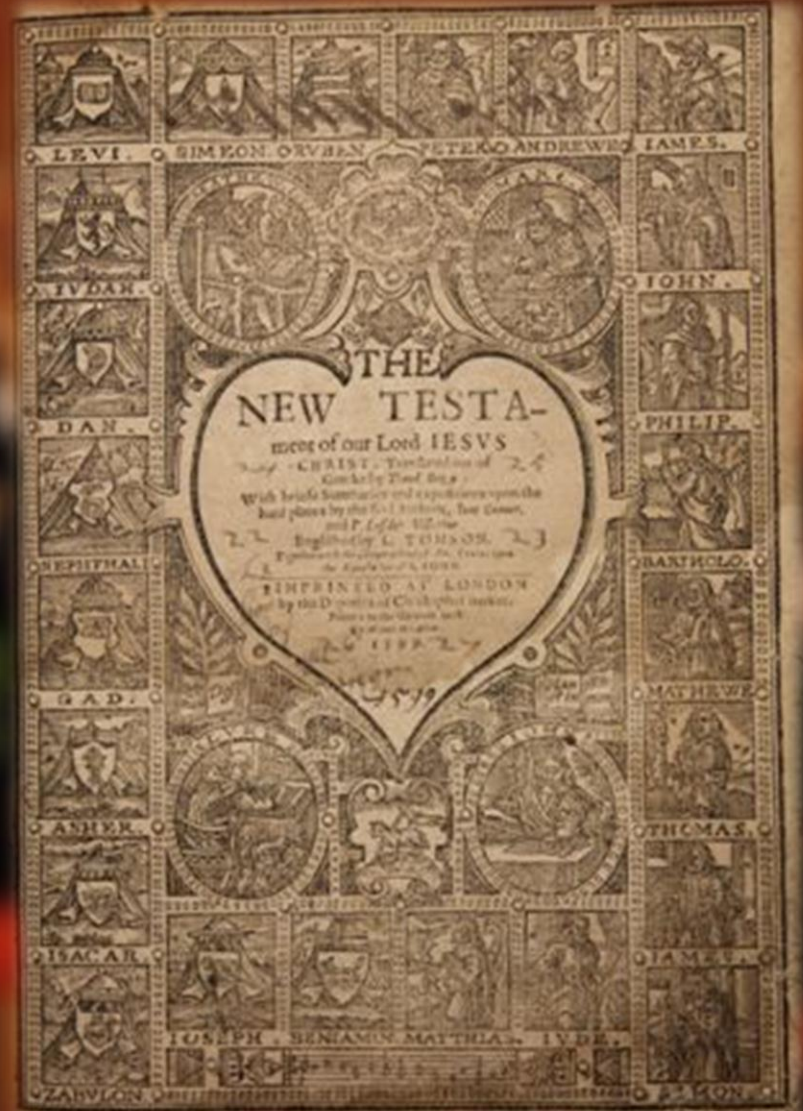


**“Be of good comfort,
Master Ridley, and
play the man. We
shall this day light
such a candle, by
God’s grace, in
England, as I trust
shall never be put
out.”**

“we which live, and are remaining in the comming of the Lord” (1 Thess. 4:15)

“He speaketh of these things, as though he should be one of them whom the Lord shall find alive at His comming, because that time is uncertaine, and therefore every one of us ought to be in such a readinesse, as if the Lord were comming at every moment.”

Marginal note, 1599 Geneva Bible



Richard Sibbes

(1577–1635)

“All the desires of the Church are restless till the consummation of all things in the latter coming of Christ.”

Sermon, *The Church's Echo. In One Sermon*, 1638



“The holy apostle had no greater a conjuration [solemn appeal] to move Timothy to be diligent, and to quicken him in his ministry, than by the coming of our Lord Jesus. So let us stir up ourselves, and comfort ourselves hereby.”

Sermon, ‘The Brides Longing for her Bride-groomes Second Comming,’ 1638

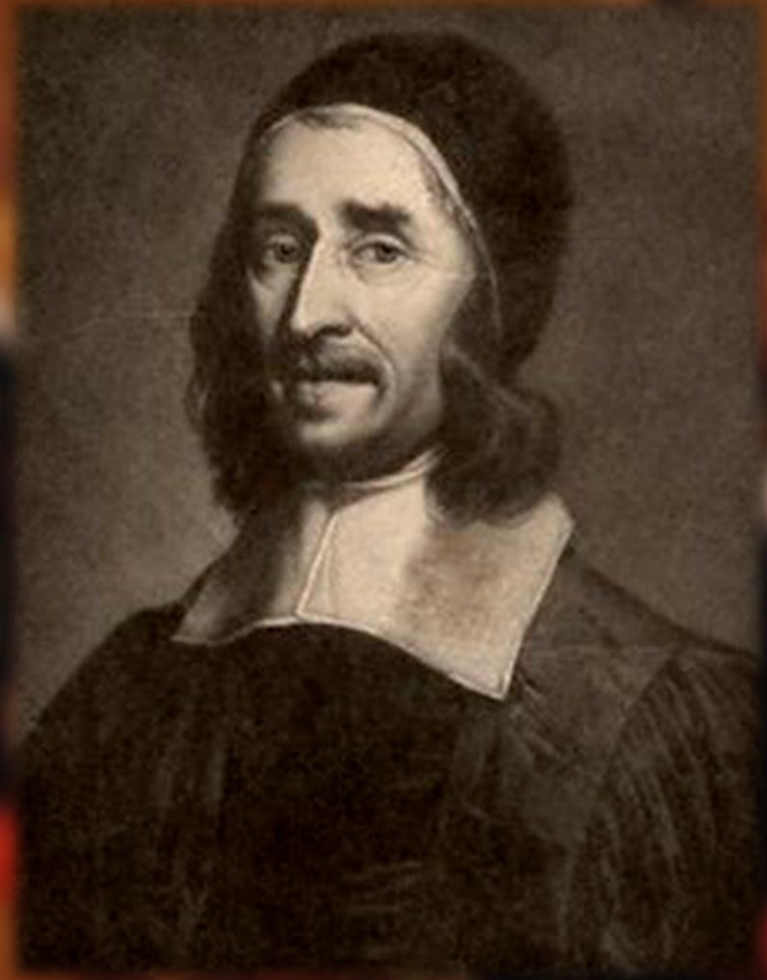


Richard Baxter

(1615–1691)

“And when ever the Apostles would quicken to duty, or comfort and encourage to patient waiting, they usually do it by mentioning Christ’s Coming. Why then do we not use more this cordial Consideration, when ever we want Support and Comfort.”

The Saints Everlasting Rest, 1650



Bishop Joseph Hall

(1574–1656)



“Many shall have their share in his loss; he must be missed on the sudden: it was meet, therefore, that the world should know his rapture should be divine and glorious ... God will not work wonders without witnesses”



“Elias had but one witness of his rapture into heaven; St Paul had none ... Thou, O blessed Jesu! wouldst neither have all eyes witnesses of thine ascension, nor yet too few”

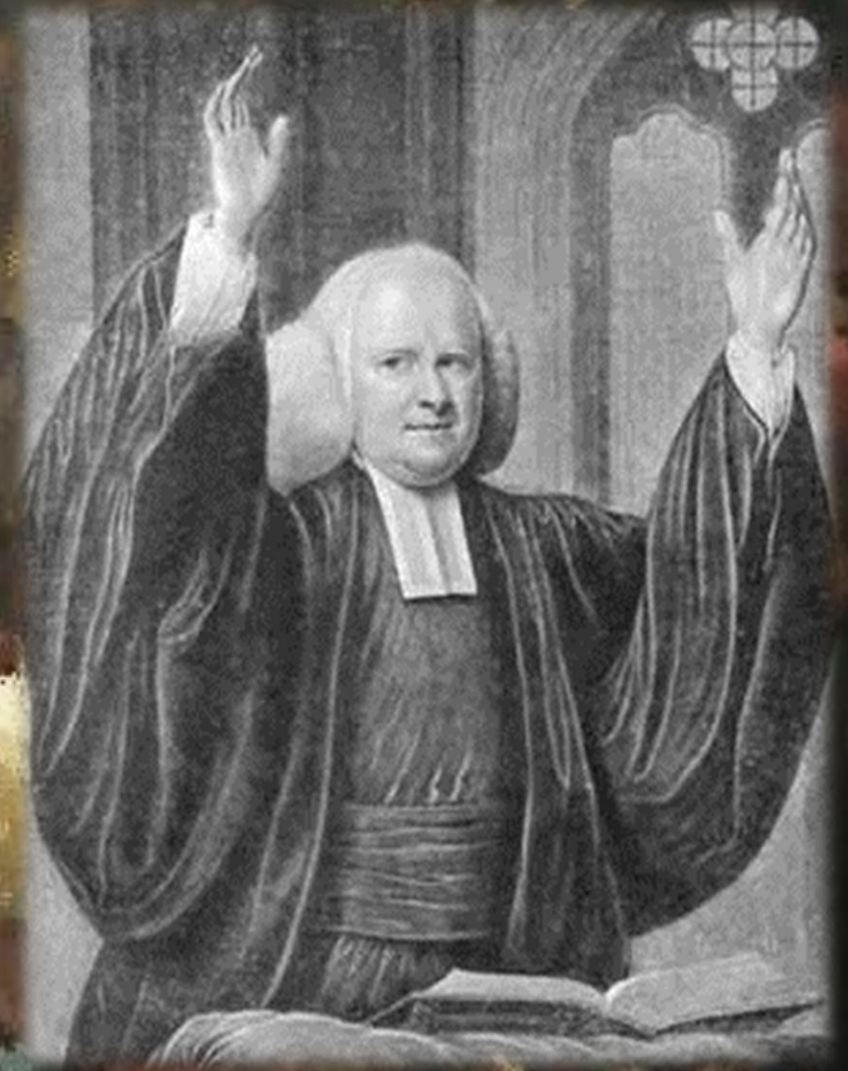
*‘The Rapture of Elijah’ and ‘The Ascension,’ in *Contemplations on the Historical Passages of the Old and New Testaments* (Rev. edn, 1844)*

George Whitefield

(1714-1770)

“Let that cry, ‘Behold, the Bridegroom cometh!,’ be continually sounding in your ears; and begin now to live, as though you were assured this night you were to ‘go forth to meet Him.’”

Sermon, ‘The Wise and Foolish Virgins,’ 1739



John Wesley

(1703-1791)

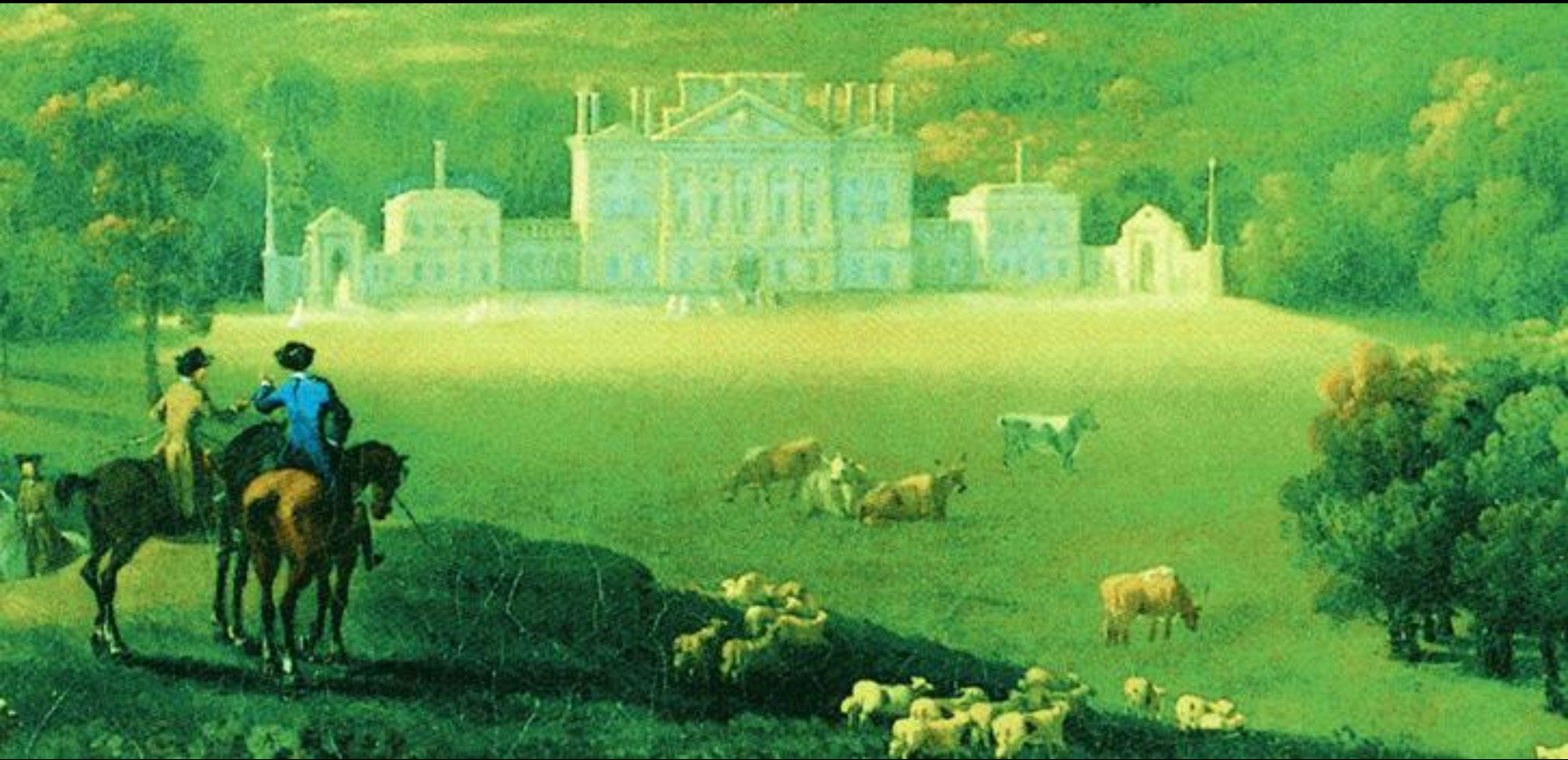
“Perhaps he will appear as the day-spring from on high, before the morning light. O do not set him a time. Expect him every hour. Now, he is nigh, even at the door!”

Sermon, ‘The Righteousness of Faith,’ 1742



The Nineteenth Century

Recovering the Rapture



Powerscourt House, Dublin

“A man may not know much about the rapture of the church, and yet be waiting for someone to come and take him out of this scene. Before ever I knew about the Lord’s coming, I think I loved His appearing. I knew nothing about the doctrine, but the principle of loving His appearing was in my mind, though I could not define it.”

Reading at Rochdale (Colossians 1)
Notes & Jottings, pp.99-100.



J.N. Darby

“People accept the Lord’s coming as a doctrine that He will appear, but not as coming at any moment to take up the church ... I remember when brethren were very much exercised about the truth of the Rapture ... It is a truth that will sift Christians amazingly.”

Readings on Numbers, Notes & Jottings, p.390.



J.N. Darby



“In connection with what you tell me about evangelisation ... it is a joy to me, when God gives me the grace of being occupied with that part of the work. In these last times this work is of the greatest importance.”

John Nelson Darby

Private Letter (January 23rd, 1862)



The doctrine of Christ's return "is precisely the truth that braces the nerves of missionary enterprise, and animates the ambassadors of Christ to constant diligence"

James H. Brookes

Maranatha: or The Lord Cometh
(1874)



**“Surely no doctrine, in
the Word of God,
presents a deeper
motive for crucifying the
flesh, and for separation
unto God, and to work
for souls ... than this
does.”**

William E. Blackstone
Jesus is Coming (1878)



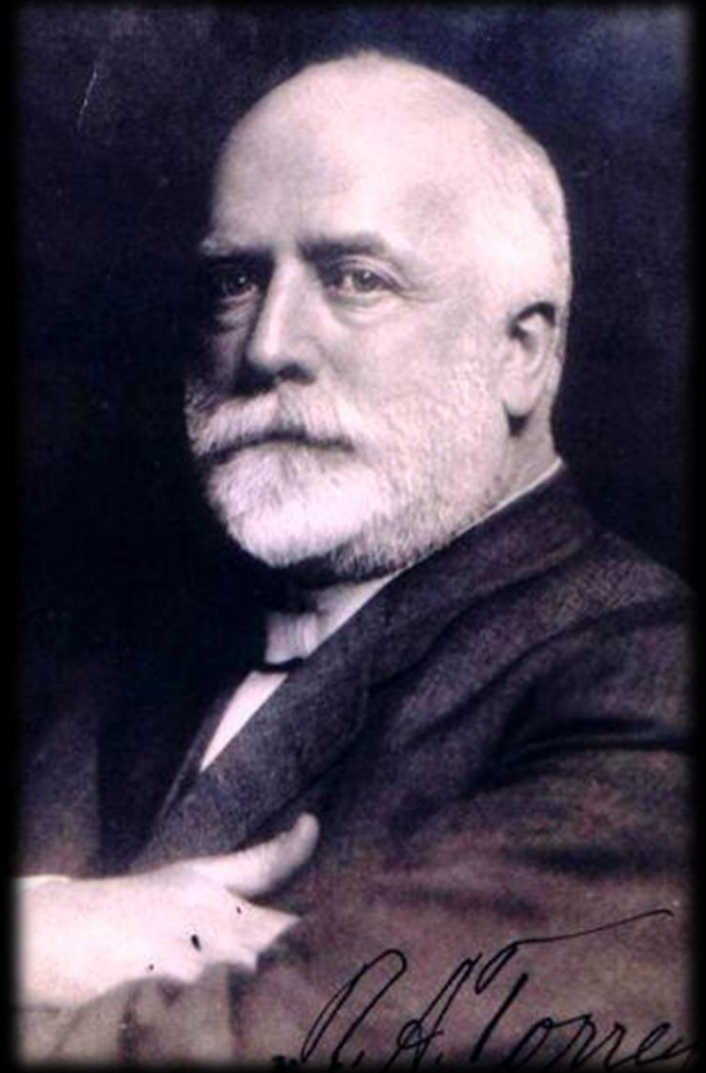
**“To wait for the Son
from heaven is ... to
be driven out with a
passion to serve and
save them that are
without.”**

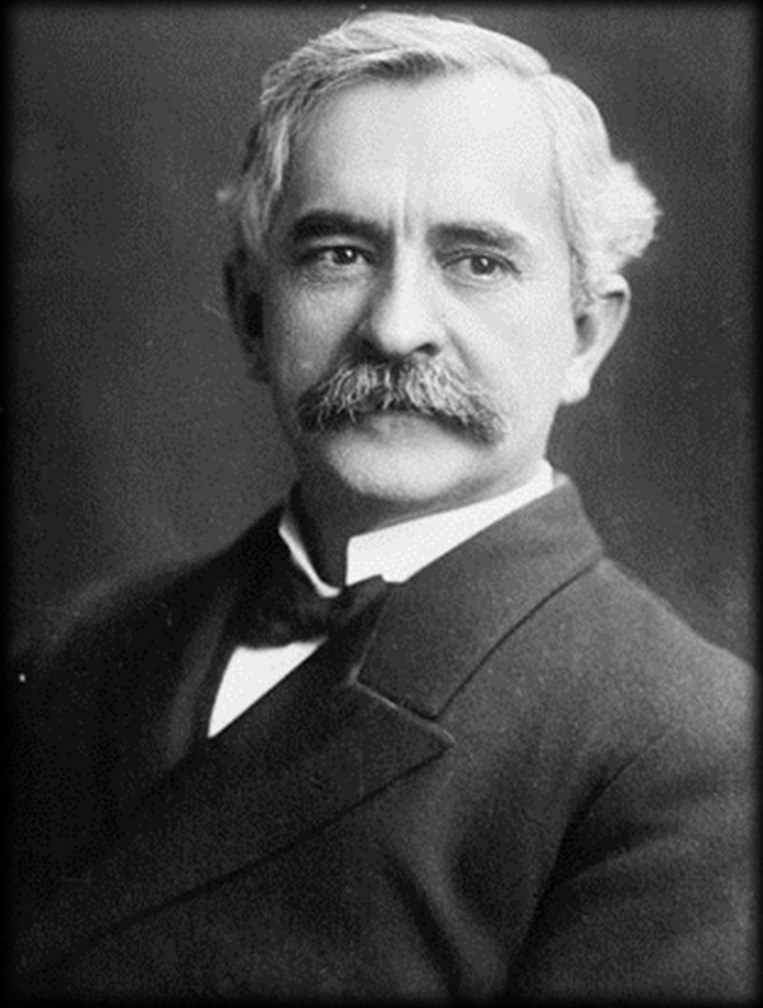
G. Campbell Morgan
Sunrise: Behold, He Cometh!
(1912)

**“OUR LORD JESUS IS
COMING! How these
words should make us
eager to bring our
friends to Christ at once
lest they be ‘left’ at His
coming.”**

Reuben A. Torrey

The Return of the Lord Jesus (1913)

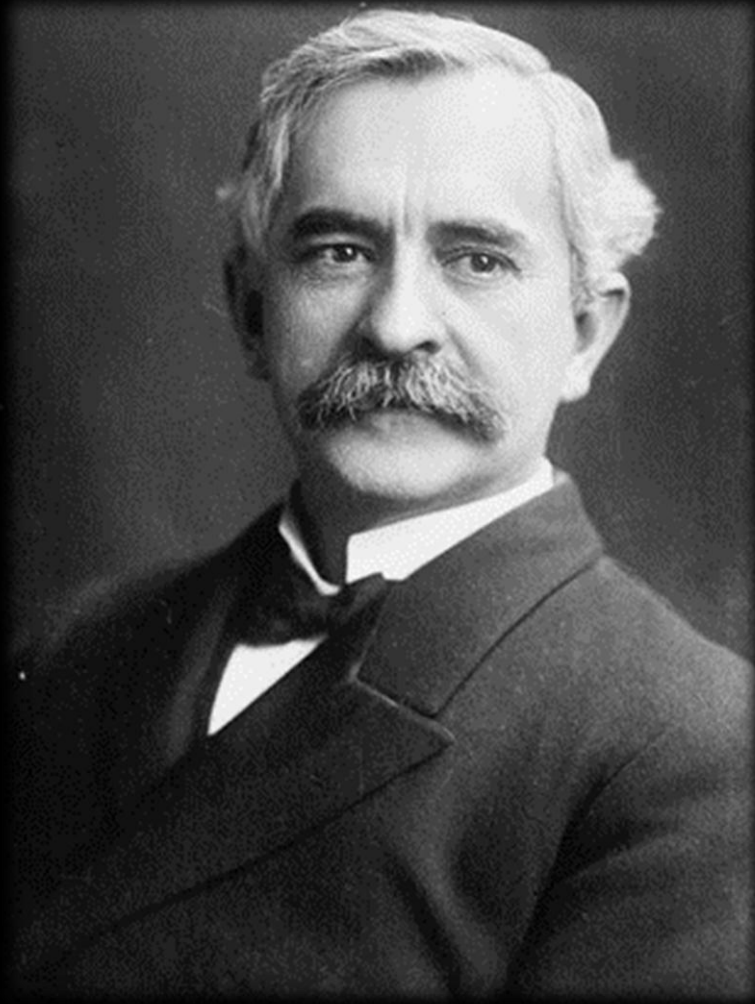




“It is certain ... that we ought to be expecting His return for His people at any moment. It is certain that this ‘Blessed Hope’ of the Lord’s return for us at any moment makes us, not mystical dreamers, but faithful servants”

Amzi Clarence Dixon

**Letter to Queen’s Hall Meeting,
London 1917**



**“How I do long to
preach Jesus to the
lost, and to see
them saved!”**

Quoted in David L. Larsen, *The
Company of the Preachers*, 1998

**“The return of our Lord
may be expected at any
moment ... The pressing
duty of the Church is to
exercise her witnessing
function.”**

F.B. Meyer

**‘Advent Testimony Manifesto
1917,’ in Frederick A. Tatford,
The Midnight Cry, 1968**



The Compassion, and Urgency, of Jesus

A painting depicting Jesus as a shepherd. He is shown from the waist up, wearing a dark blue robe with a white sash and a white head covering. He holds a long wooden staff in his right hand. He is surrounded by a flock of sheep in a hazy, golden light. In the background, several people are visible, some looking towards Jesus. The overall scene is one of compassion and care.

“For the Son of
Man came to
seek and to save
the lost.”

Luke 19:10



“When He saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”

Matthew 9:36

1. Compassion

splagchnizomai

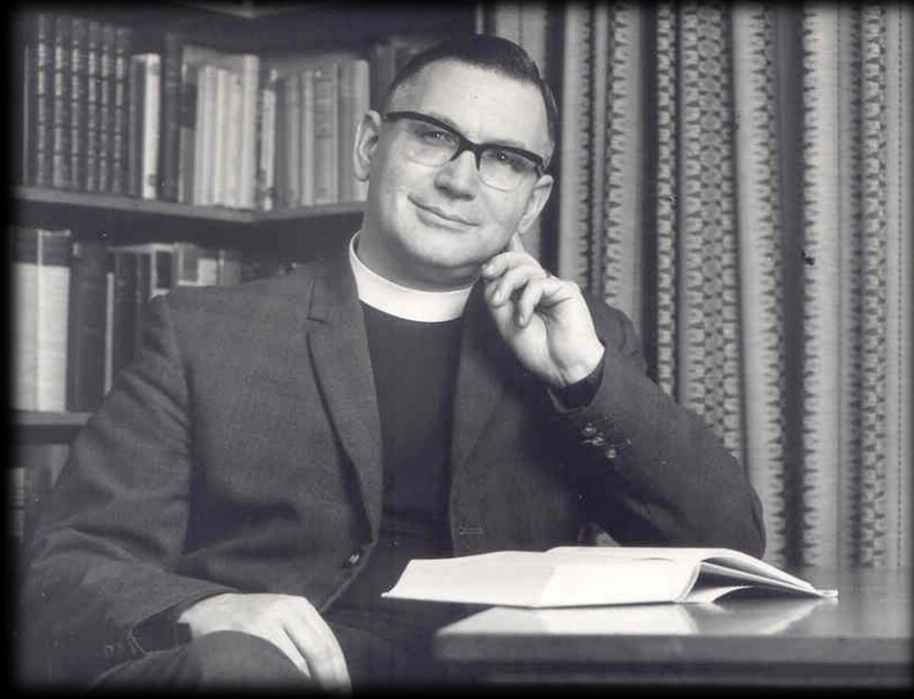
- to be moved as to one's bowels
- a deep, inner yearning to act on someone else's behalf

A painting of a shepherd with a staff and sheep in a hazy, golden light. The shepherd is in the center, wearing a blue tunic and a dark hat, holding a long staff. He is surrounded by a flock of sheep. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with mountains and a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

2. Urgency

“We must work the works of Him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.”

(John 9:4)



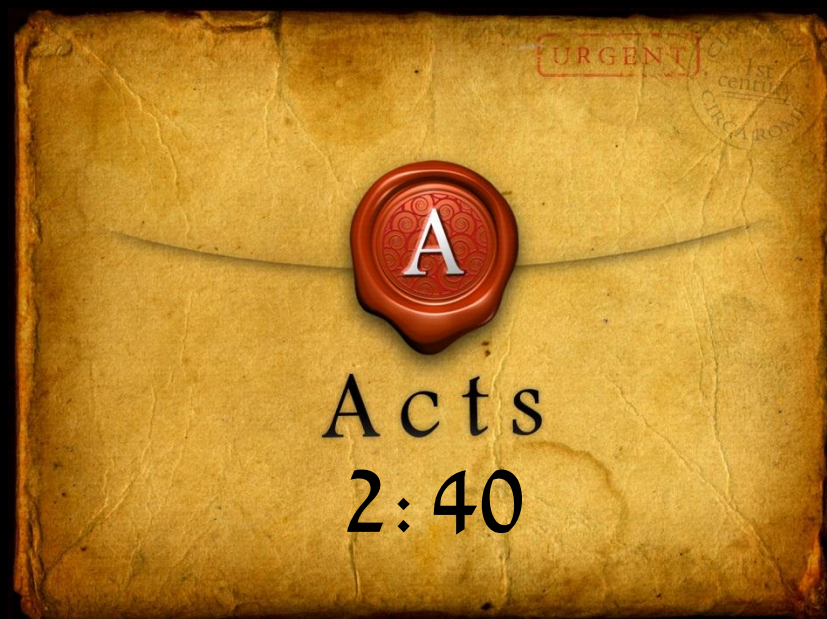
“Again, we can find value in this teaching about the Second Advent because **IT ADDS URGENCY TO EVANGELISM**. This was the effect of the belief in the early days of Christianity, when the Church was very

young. It gave punch to the missionary proclamation. It provided a stimulus to the evangelistic task of the Church. Those first Christians were vividly aware of the Second Coming ... It was their concern to sweep as many into the gospel net as they could before the end.”

Arthur Skevington Wood, *Prophecy in the Space Age*, 1964

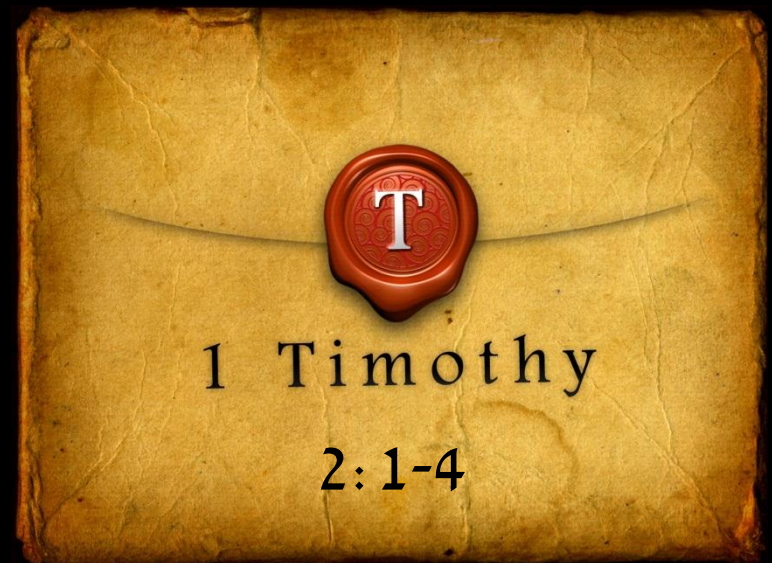
PREACHING

“And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this crooked generation.’”



PRAYING

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people ... This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.”



The Nuremberg Trials

1945-46





- Devoted follower of Hitler; vociferous anti-Semite
- Greeted King George VI with “Heil Hitler!” (1937)
- Reich Minister for Foreign Affairs (1938-45)
- Signed the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact (1939)

“As I live, declares the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live...”

(Ezekiel 33:11)



Henry Gerecke
Nuremberg's Pastor



“Arrogant and snobbish, Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop made no attempt to conceal his cool indifference at the sight of the chaplain entering his untidy cell ... Strongly anti-Semitic, he considered the Jews a useless breed ... This was a hard man to love!”



“Time was short! Once Judgment Day was declared, Gerecke was not sure how soon executions would take place. As he gathered his little congregation together each evening he preached with intensity, praying that God would yet touch further hearts with the power of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.”





“For nearly a year von Ribbentrop had heard the chaplain proclaim Jesus as the answer ... the Cross ... the power of the blood of Jesus ... that by grace are ye saved through faith ... Ribbentrop could hold out no longer, seeking God’s forgiveness and opening his heart to Christ.”





**“The only
conceivable end for
these merchants of
aggression.”**

“Then he turned to me
and said – and my
heart still warms when
I think of it –

‘I’ll see you again.’”



“The Lord is not slow to fulfil His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

(2 Peter 3:9)

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, Flow sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

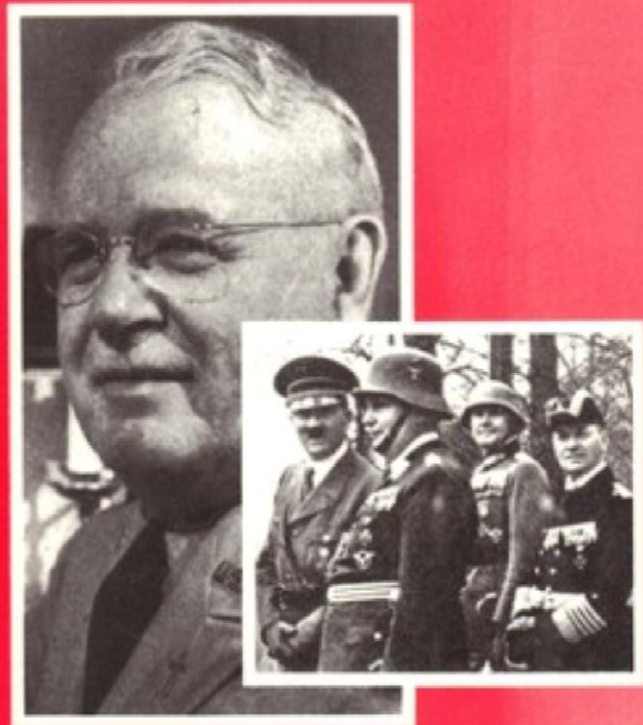
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

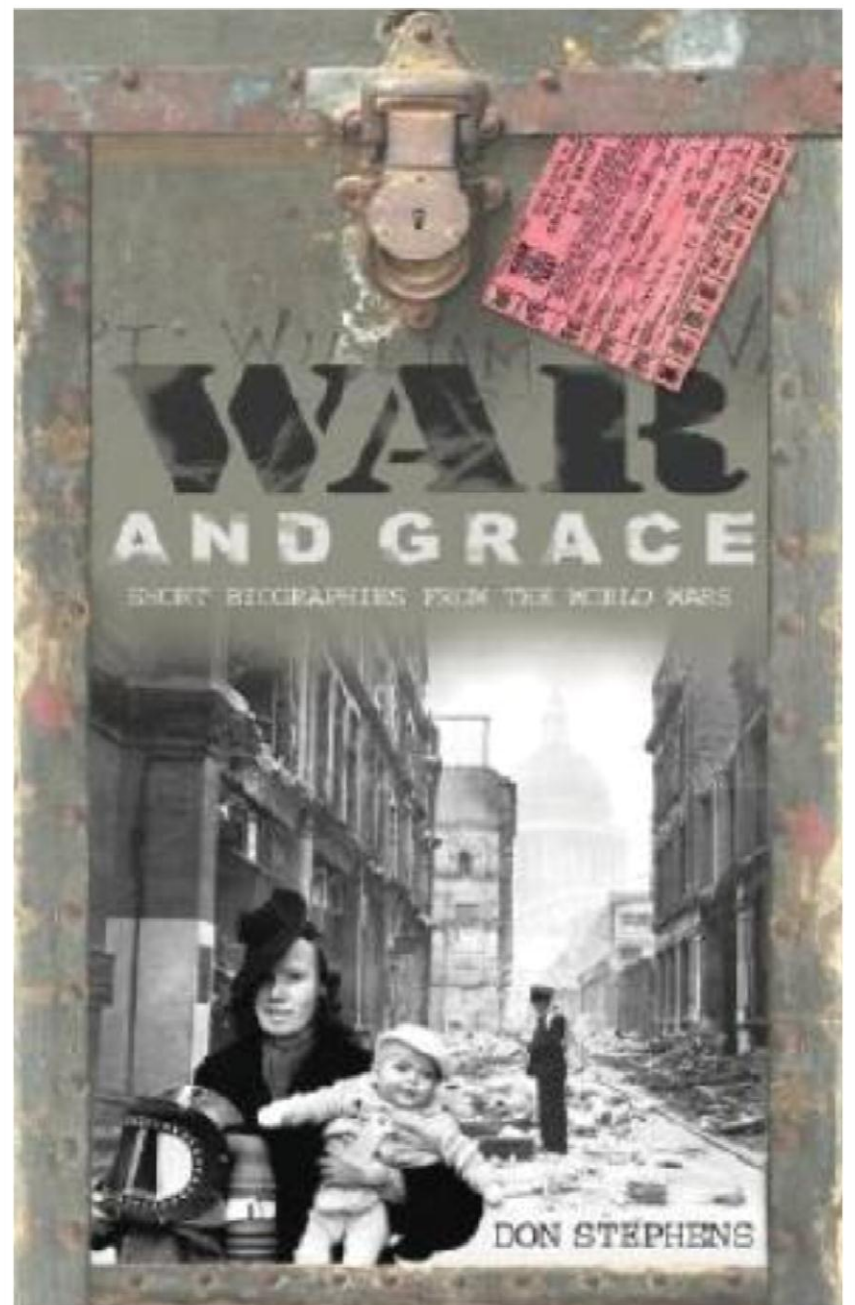
When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

John Newton

THE CROSS AND THE SWASTIKA

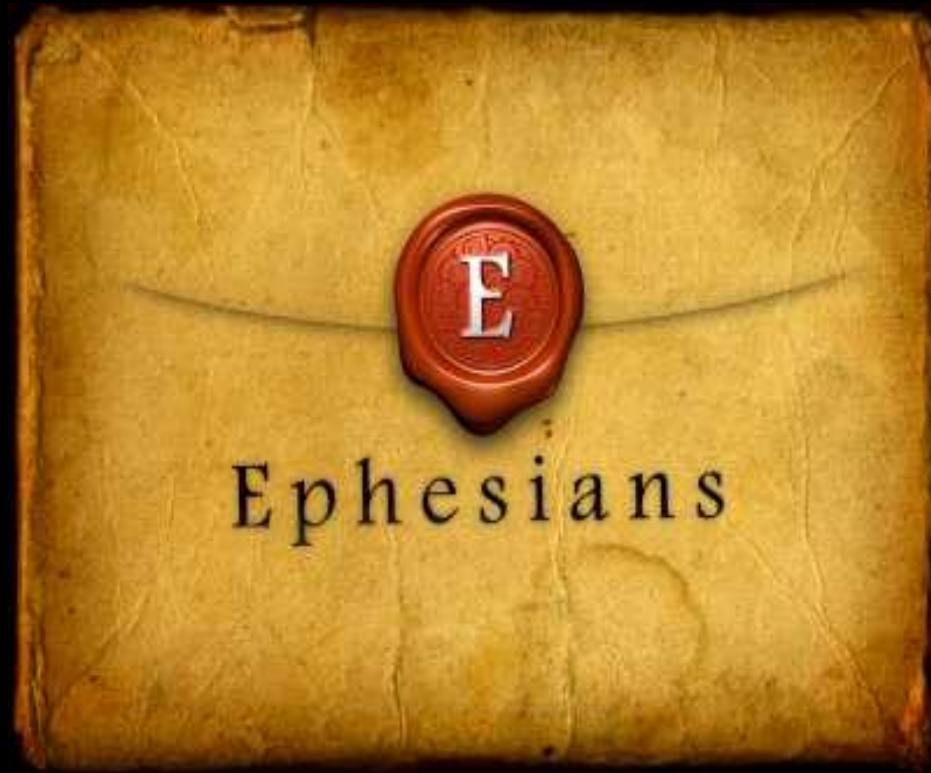


FREDERICK GROSSMITH



DON STEPHENS

A Word of Encouragement



“And he gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers”

Ephesians 4:11



Jesus said,
“and you will be my
witnesses in Jerusalem
and in all Judea and
Samaria, and to the
end of the earth”

Acts 1:8



The hour is late!



Manchester – Chicago – Dallas

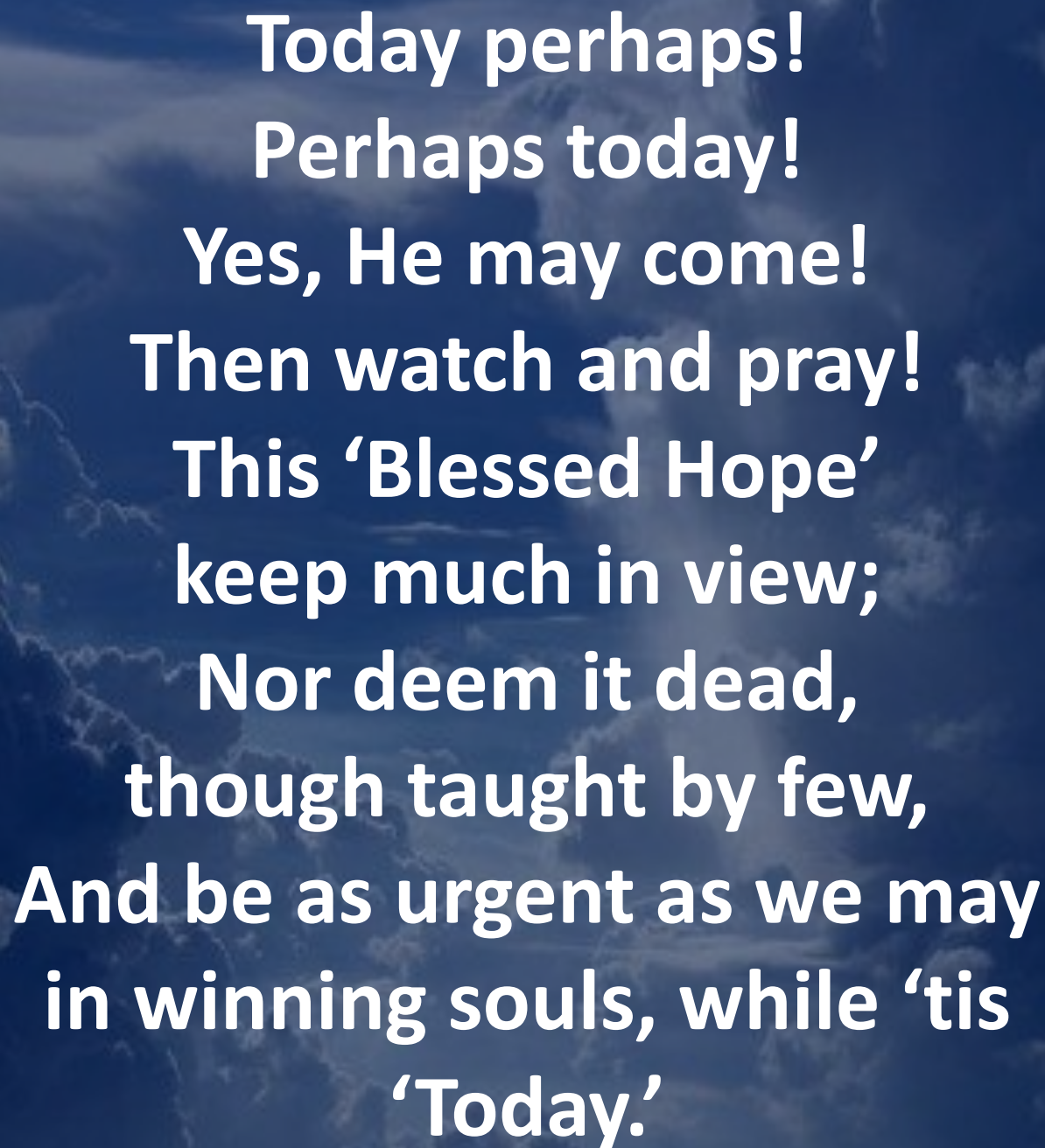


Steve Scheibner (pilot)
'In My Seat'

**“A very little while and He will come ...
Only a brief season can remain for us all.
But what may not be done in these
quickly passing days.”**

John Harper





**Today perhaps!
Perhaps today!
Yes, He may come!
Then watch and pray!
This 'Blessed Hope'
keep much in view;
Nor deem it dead,
though taught by few,
And be as urgent as we may
in winning souls, while 'tis
'Today.'**

(Author unknown)

I Come Before The Cross Of Christ

**I come before the Cross of Christ,
Where my dear Lord was crucified;
That day so dark that brought me light,
His death that gave me life.**



Chorus:

***Sweet Jesus Christ, you paid the price,
Laid down your life for me in sacrifice.
Help me to truly understand,
It's only through grace that I can stand!
It's only through grace that I can stand!***



**I've been forgiven in Jesus' name,
And now to live is Christ to die is gain.
To know His love so deep, so wide,
His righteousness, where I abide.**



Chorus:

*Sweet Jesus Christ, you paid the price,
Laid down your life for me in sacrifice.
Help me to truly understand,
It's only through grace that I can stand!
It's only through grace that I can stand!*



**Christ will return, God's Word declares;
And we'll be gathered to Him in the air.
Then He will lead us by the hand,
And take us to the Promised Land!**



Chorus:

***Sweet Jesus Christ, you paid the price,
Laid down your life for me in sacrifice.
Help me to truly understand,
It's only through grace that I can stand!
It's only through grace that I can stand!
It's only through grace... (Last time)***

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(In loving memory of Winifred Hannah Reilly (1917-2010), a dear
friend in Christ whose poem 'Son of God' inspired this hymn).

Instruments: Graham Moir



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